

GHOST IN THE SHELL

In a world where the human mind can be programmed like a computer, at what point does the human soul end and the cybernetic machinery begin?

What does it mean to be human?

from Masamune Shirow, the creator of *Appleseed*, *Brion*, and *Armored Trooper Volf*: *Ghost in the Shell*, a sci-fi, dystopian tale of politics, covert operations, and cyborgs with too much attitude.



CLAMP



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GHOST IN THE SHELL



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This book collects issues one through eight of the
Dark Horse comic-book series *Ghost in the Shell*.




It is the near future. The world has become highly information-intensive, with a vast corporate network covering the planet, electrons and light pulsing through it. But the nation-state and ethnic groups still survive.

And on the edge of Asia, in a strange corporate conglomerate-state called "Japan"...

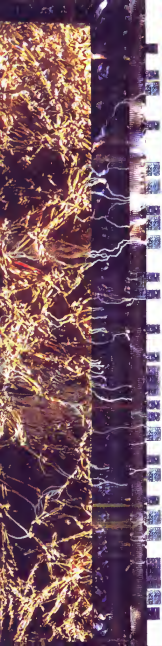


01

PROLOGUE



This is a photograph of a growth-type neurochip, created at Harima Science City in 1998 (enlarged 50,000 times). The cells are nearly dead from over-growth, and cracks in neuro-fibers can be observed throughout the chip. Neuro-fibers have grown all the way out to the chip terminals, which are made of a relative of polystyrene coated with galactose. The fibers have even warped the thin film base on which the terminals themselves are etched. In the same month that the chip was developed, vast capital corporations (largely media conglomerates) began to form a huge network in the medical world that used micro-machines as supplementary "cyber-brains." Cyberbrain technology thereafter began shifting to a micromachine base, and by the year 2028 large numbers of neurochips were in use in AI and robotics.



SO WHY
ARE WE STILL
TALKING
ABOUT
SILICON
DEPOSITS?

March 5, 2029. Newport City, a floating metropolis
in Shinhama Prefecture.

IT'S A GOOD ENOUGH
REASON FOR THE
GOVERNMENT TO
GUARANTEE THAT
IT WON'T INTERFERE
WITH YOUR NATION'S
"POLICY OF NOT
RECOGNIZING
SEPARATION AND
INDEPENDENCE."

THE EARLIER
PROMISE OF
"EXTENDING AID
IF INDEPENDENCE
IS RECOGNIZED"
WAS ONLY
MADE IN
PRINCIPLE, AND
DOES NOT
CONFLICT
WITH OUR
"TRADE."

WE'LL GO
THROUGH A THIRD-
PARTY NATION.

THAT'S
FINE.





AFTER ALL, IF A NATION OF SLAVES WITHHOLDS ITS SERVICES, THE MASTER NATION STARVES...

...AND A CHRONIC MANPOWER SHORTAGE WILL GIVE THE SLAVE MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY A SHOT IN THE ARM.

OF COURSE, IT'S DEVIATING A BIT FROM SOCIALISM.

I'M AMAZED AT YOUR COUNTRY... THE BRAINS CALL IT CAPITALIST, BUT IT'S REALLY AN IDEAL SOCIALIST STATE, ISN'T IT...?



LABOR CONDITIONS JUST DON'T WORK OUT THAT WAY... THE BRAINS CAN BE MANIPULATED WHEN NECESSARY WITH AN ALLOTMENT OF BLOOD...



WHERE THE HELL'S UNIT 2?

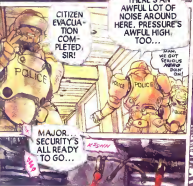


THINK IT'S A TERRORIST BOMBING?

C'MON, FOLKS-- QUIETLY AND QUICKLY!

MUST BE THE NEW NATION

MY GOD!



CITIZEN EVACUATION COMPLETED, SIR!

THERE'S AN AWFUL LOT OF NOISE AROUND HERE. PRESSURE'S AWFUL HIGH, TOO...

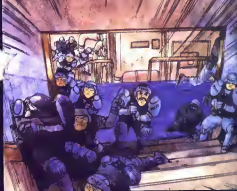
SHAME, WE GOT SERIOUSLY NERVOUS ABOUT THAT

MAJOR... SECURITY'S ALL READY TO GO...



I HEAR YOU, I HEAR YOU...

LEAVE THE DAMN CODE ENCRYPTION UP TO THE AI AND THE WHOLE WORLD'LL HEAR US...





THE POLICE HAVE THEIR TARGET SURROUNDED, BUT IF THEY FORGET THEY ARE THEIR COMRADES, I DON'T RECOMMEND TRYING THIS, DEAR READERS. -SP-

WELL, WELL... IF IT ISN'T A FAR EAST TRADE REP, AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, AND AN EXECUTIVE OF THE UNION...

HOPE YOU DON'T MIND US IMPOUNDING YOUR WEAPONS...

POLICE! DAMN YOU, ARAMAKI!

THE FOREIGN MINISTRY AND THE SELF-DEFENSE AGENCY'S BEEN WATCHING ALL THIS...

AND NOW WE'VE FINALLY GOT ENOUGH EVIDENCE TO DECLARE YOU ALL *PERSONA NON GRATA* AND DEPORT YOU.

AND AS FOR MR. ITO, THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, WE'LL JUST HAVE TO HAVE YOU ATTEND A LITTLE HEARING.

WE'LL NEED YOU, SIR, TO TESTIFY IN DETAIL ON THE ASSASSINATION OF OUR LATE PRIME MINISTER AND ON WHO LEAKED THE INFORMATION ABOUT HIS CONFERENCE SITE.

YOU'LL GET A SUBPOENA BEFORE THAT, ARAMAKI!

THIS'LL BE AN INTERNATIONAL INCIDENT!

I'M DEAD



4-3. PEOPLE LIKE ITO ARE KEPT AS HOSTAGES UNTIL THEY'RE OF NO USE, AND THEN EXCHANGED FOR SPES, ETC. WHO WE'VE BEEN CAUGHT.





2562 REFERS TO A MODIFIED MODEL BUILT IN THE YEAR 2029.

The following day, the woman (a female model cyborg) was seated in the office of the Minister of Internal Affairs



... with an assassination order issued by the former prime minister.

The only thing certain was that there had been a need to resolve a crisis and that the woman (or woman) known as Major Motoko Kusanagi (obviously an alias) was extremely talented

02

SUPER SPARTAN

.....
10.4.2029





breep breep

TIME TO
GET TO
WORK,
MAJOR.

I WANT
YOU TO
JOIN *SUSEN*
IN SOUTH
SHINJIMA
WARD 4
AND STAND
BY.



"WORK."
?!
WHAT'S
THAT?

THE BUDGET YOU
IDIOTS ASKED FOR
PASSED, SO GET
YOUR BUTTS
IN GEAR!



HEY,
FUCHI-
KOMA!
GOT THE
CONFIR-
MATION
?

N-NO,
MA'AM
!

HEY,
THEN,
GET
ON
WITH
IT!





HAVE-REPORT-
THAT-BUDGET-
HAS-PASSED-
IN-327TH-
SESSION-OF-
NATIONAL-
COUNCIL-
NOW-
RECONFIRMING

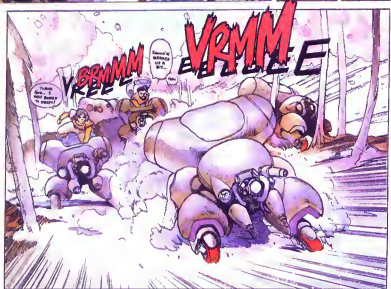


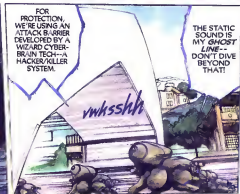
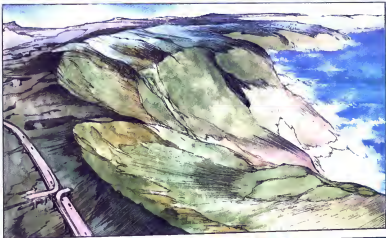
OKAY!
OUR ROUND-
THE-CLOCK
CHERRY
BLOSSOM
VIEWING
PARTY'S
OVER!



NOW I'M
GONNA TAKE
YOU GUYS
TO A STRIP
JOINT!

SAVING!





*MONITORED

SLIX

either the
SEM-defense
force or the
Public security
bureau...

The minister
of internal
affairs says
global
network...

acting as
the
self-defense
force...

the public
security bureau...

what? You
say you want
work for the
bureau for the
international
self-defense
unit?
contribute to the
development of the
bureau?

DAMN,
THERE'S A
LOT OF
NOISE IN
YOUR
BRAIN,
MAJOR.

HEY, I'M
ON MY
PERIOD!

MAJOR,
YOUR PROS-
THETIC
HAND
HURTS
A BIT,
DOESN'T
IT...

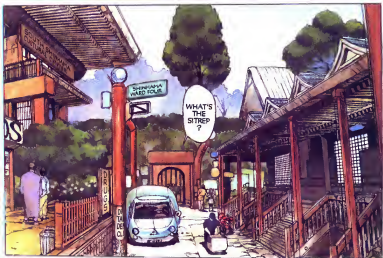
WHAT'S
THIS BITTER
TASTE...
YOU TAKING
A TRANQUIL-
IZER?

OKAY,
GUYS, YOU
GOT YOUR
DATA NOW,
ANYBODY
NOT CLEARED
OUT IN TWO
SECONDS
GETS
BRAIN-
BURNED!

DAMN!
THE
BASTARDS
DOVE CLOSE
TO MY
GHOST

THAT'S
WHY I HATE
LETTING THOSE
INSENSITIVE
BRUTES
INTO MY
BRAIN...

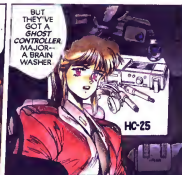
VREEE





WELL THEN,
YOU DON'T
NEED US...

SEE
YA
LATER...



BUT THEY'VE
GOT A
GHOST
CONTROLLER.
MAJOR--
A BRAIN
WASHER.

HC-25



HOW
ANACHRO-
NISTIC...!



THIS RELIEF
CENTER'S
KNOWN FOR
THE WIDE
VARIETY OF
TALENTED
PEOPLE IT
PRODUCES.

POLITICIANS,
CRIMINALS,
ETC. ...

PRETTY
MUCH
ALL THE
SAME...



AT THE
PUBLIC
SECURITY
BUREAU
THEY
CALL
IT A
"HUMAN
FACTORY"...

THEY
NEED IT
BUT A FEW
BAD APPLES
CAN CREATE
A REAL
SOCIAL
PROBLEM...



HAH...
YOU
MEAN
THE BAD
APPLES
ARE
AFRAID
OF BAD
APPLES?



THIS IS
A HC-25
DRAWING
HACKED
OUT OF
THE LAB'S
CYBER-
BRAIN.

BUT
WITHOUT
ANY PROOF,
WE CAN'T
PURSUE THE
MATTER
FUR-
THER...

After
that
hacker
was the
REAL
thing on
Cyber
143 yob
buddy?



"B&E"...

"WET-
WORK"...

DEEP
DEEP

NO!
NOTHING
LIKE
THAT
!!

THE GOAL
HERE IS TO
BE ABLE TO
TAKE CARE
OF THE
PROBLEM
AND TO
'ARREST'
THEM IF
NEED
BE...

TO
'OFFICIALLY'
DO THAT
WITHOUT
ANY
EVIDENCE
OR AN
ARREST
WARRANT?

SO
WHY
DO THEY
HAVE
IT
HERE...?

THEY'VE
TRIED TO
GET A
HACKER
IN AND
FAILED,
EH?

TOO
MUCH
FOR
ME.

DO YOU
WANT TO
SYNCHRO-
DIVE AND
CHECK?

THE CENTRAL
CYBER-BRAIN
BARRIER HERE
IS A COMPLEX
MAZE OF
SIMULATED
EXPERIENCES,
SO THEY
COULDN'T
INFILTRATE IT.
BUT THEY
DEFINITELY
GOT A HIT.

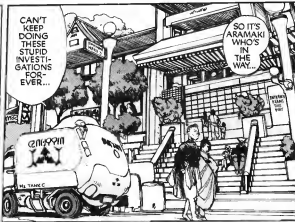
THE MANAGER
OF THE DUPLICATE
CODE KEY FOR THE
LAB'S CENTRAL
CYBERBRAIN IS
FROM HERE,
AFTER ALL...

'Course
he's
missing
now.
Techniq.

DAMN THAT
ARAMAKI-- HE'S
TRYING TO FORCE
US INTO AN
ATTACK BASED
ON FALSE INTEL.
AND THEN IF
THERE'S A LAW-
SUIT HE'LL
HANG ME OUT
TO DRY...

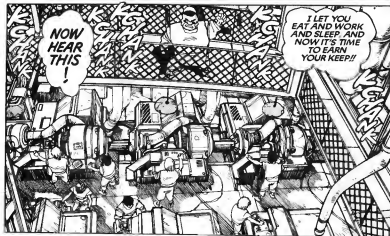
CAN'T
KEEP
DOING
THESE
STUPID
INVESTIGATIONS
FOREVER...

SO IT'S
ARAMAKI
WHO'S
IN
THE
WAY...









IF YOU DON'T WANT TO WORK, TAKE THE EDUCATION COURSE. IF YOU DON'T WANT TO DO EITHER, I WON'T APPLY FOR YOUR CITIZENSHIP PAPERS FOR YOU!

YOU WANNA DIE HOMELESS ?!

KANG KANG KANG

THE EDUCATION COURSE...

FORGET IT-- THEY SAY IT'S WORSE THAN HERE, THAT THEY TURN YOU INTO A VEGETABLE...

I WISH I'D NEVER BEEN BORN...

WHAT KINDA LIFE IS THIS... ?

GOT ANY IMAGES OF THE "EDUCATION COURSE" ?

NOPE. THERE AREN'T ANY.

WHAT ?

YOU HEAR THAT, CHIEF?

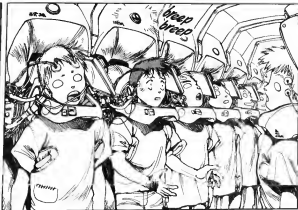
SEE WHAT GREAT PEOPLE YOU'VE GOT WORKING FOR YOU?!

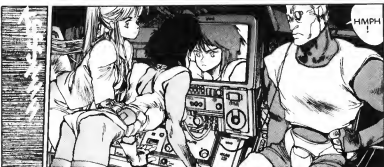
IT'S TRUE. THEY'RE NOT FOR **EME** BARBERS. SHAVE OUR MICHIGANS. CAN'T FORTNATE...

LISTEN, MAJOR...

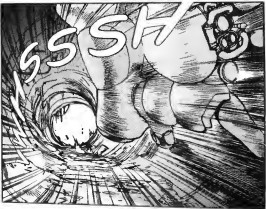
WHY DON'T YOU CUT THE PISSING AND MOANING, AND JUST COME OVER TO SECURITY.

MAJOR, WE'VE FINALLY GOT A FEED ON THE EDUCATION COURSE ON TAP 4...









HEY,
ISHI-
KAWA...

SOME-
THIN'
BUGS
ME
ABOUT
THIS...



TOUGH
IT
OUT,
KIDDO...

OUR
CRAZY
GORILLA-
BABE'S
CALLIN'
THE
SHOTS...



SHE'S
GOT
GOOD
EARS.
TOO!

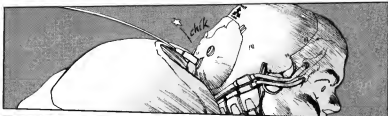
Oh... "Oh, we've
got such a young,
beautiful and
kind squad
leader! We're
so happy!"

THAT'S
MORE
LIKE IT!



YOU
GO
THAT
WAY--
WE'LL
CUT
HIM
OFF!

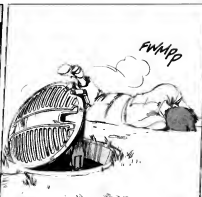




THEIR SECURITY'LL "SLEEP" FOR 25 SECONDS. YOU GOT THAT, KIDDO?



ROGER, BUT KNOCK OFF THE "KIDDO" STUFF, WILLYA?!





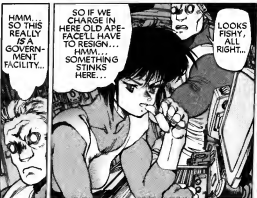
MAJOR...
THE GUARD
IS A HEAVILY
MODIFIED TYPE
2033 FROM
SAGAWA HEAVY
INDUSTRIES...

IT'S ONE
OF THOSE
CUSTOM
UNITS
ORDERED BY
THE GROUND
SELF-
DEFENSE
FORCE'S
TECH
DIVISION.



BET
IT'S A
CYBORG
THAT'S
HAD
BLACK-
MARKET
MODS...

GOVERN-
MENT-
ISSUE
OPTO-
CNS,
ANYWAY.

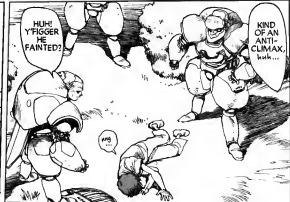


HMM...
SO THIS
REALLY
IS A
GOVERN-
MENT
FACILITY...

SO IF WE
CHARGE IN
HERE OLD APE-
FACE'LL HAVE
TO RESIGN...
HMM...
SOMETHING
STINKS
HERE...

LOOKS
FISHY,
ALL
RIGHT...





KIND OF AN ANTI-CLIMAX, huh...



GHOST-BACK OR GHOST-OUT-- CYBERBRAINWASH OR DEATH.



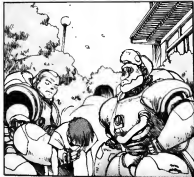
SO THIS IS A GOVERNMENT BRAIN-WASH CENTER...

WHY THE HELL DOES SECURITY WANT US TO DO AN OFFICIAL INVESTIGATION...

IT'S A TRAP, MAJOR. APE-FACE PROBABLY NEVER GAVE YOU THE ORDER. HELL, IT'S PROBABLY ALL A VR SIM...

GET REAL, BATOU--MY BARRIER ELEMENTS AREN'T THAT CHEAP!







HMM...
THIS IS
ODD...

DO YOU
SUPPOSE
I FRIED
AN AI?

THERE
WAS NO
RESISTANCE
WHEN HIS
GHOST
WAS FRIED...

THAT
MEANS
WE'RE NOT
UP AGAINST
A HACKER
FOOLING
AROUND.
WE'RE
DEALING
WITH A
PRO!

HOW'D
THEY
KNOW IT
WAS THE
SEWER?

WAS
THERE
AN INFO
LEAK? OR IS IT
A TRAP
AFTER
ALL?!



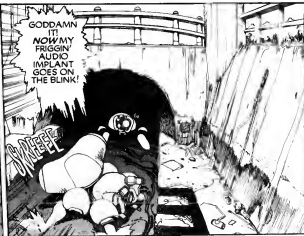
TOGUSA
? HEY,
WHAT
HAP--

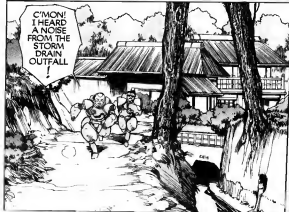
OWW
W!

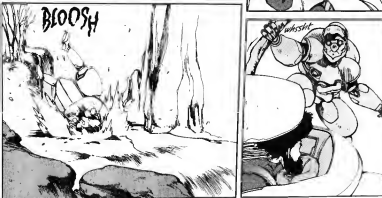
KZZKK!
ZKK

GODDAMN
IT!
NOW MY
FRIGGIN'
AUDIO
IMPLANT
GOES ON
THE BLINK!

OWWEE









TOGUSA
LOOKS A
LITTLE BENT
OUTTA
SHAPE,
MAJOR...



WELL,
HELP
HIM
AND GET
OUT OF
THERE!

WE'RE
GOING
OUT-
SIDE?

OF
COURSE,
STUPID!
WHAT
DO YOU
THINK
WE'RE
DOING
?!!



SHIT, JUST
SLAP A
CABLE ON
HIM AND
YANK HIM
OUT!
THAT'LL BE
FASTER!

Yeeep...
THE GENTLE
PRINCESS IS
SO HARSH
WITH HER
MEN...



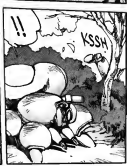
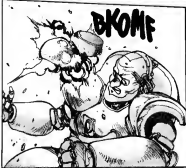
HEY!
ISN'T THAT
ISHIKAWA'S
FUCHIKOMA?



WHAT
THE
HELL'S
GOING
ON?









OPTO-CAM??
NO AUDIO/IR
SIG? A
KYO-RE
INVISIBLE
CAPE...?!



* NAME OF AN ALL-WEATHER, THERMO-OPTICAL CAMOUFLAGE SUIT KYO-RE IS THE MANUFACTURER'S NAME

OKAY!
OKAY!
I GIVE UP!
JUST DON'T
HURT MY
BRAIN!
WE'RE
BOTH PROS,
RIGHT!?
I'M JUST
DOING MY
JOB!

HAND
OVER THE
CYBER-
BRAIN
WASHER
AND YOUR
GHOST
INFILTRA-
TION
PROGRAM.

OKAY, OKAY, I'LL
GIVE 'EM TO
YOU. HELL,
THEY'RE
NOT THAT
IMPORTANT
ANYWAY..

DID YOU
FRY A
HACKER
ABOUT FIVE
HOURS
AGO?

SHIT, I DON'T
KNOW... BUT
EVEN IF I DID, IT
WAS JUST IN THE
LINE OF DUTY.
WHO THE HELL
ARE YOU GUYS,
ANYWAY?

I'M A GHOST
THAT HATES
CYBERBRAIN
WASHING. I'M
ARRESTING YOU FOR
VIOLATING CYBER-
BRAIN ETHICS.



YOU GUYS FROM SECURITY? WHAT CAN THEY DO?! NOTHING'S GOING TO CHANGE, YOU KNOW...

NEITHER THE FACILITIES OR THE CYBERBRAIN WASHING...

THANK GOD, MA'AM! YOU'VE COME TO FINALLY FREE US, HAVEN'T YOU?

WHAT?!

WHAT DO YOU WANT?

DO YOU JUST WANT TO EAT AND CONTRIBUTE NOTHING, TO BE BRAINWASHED BY MEDIA TRASH? TO SACRIFICE THE NATION'S FUTURE FOR YOUR OWN SELFISHNESS?

BUT... BUT... THAT'S NOT WHAT...

LISTEN, KID-- YOU'VE GOT A GHOST AND A BRAIN... AND YOU CAN ACCESS A CYBER-BRAIN.

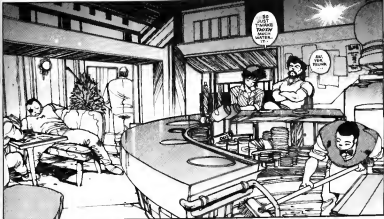
CREATE YOUR OWN FUTURE...

OH MY... IT'S JUST LIKE MY DREAMS...









I SAID THE BUDGET HAD PASSED FOR AN INTERNATIONAL ANTI-TERRORIST UNIT, BUT THAT WAS A LIE.

INSTEAD, AN "INTERNATIONAL HOSTAGE RESCUE UNIT" WILL BE FORMED WITH THREE TIMES MORE FUNDING THAN YOU REQUESTED.

THIS HELPS US AVOID BEING CALLED AN SDF THAT KILLS CIVILIANS, OR A "CRUEL SUPER-POWER." AT LEAST IN THEORY...

EIGHTY PERCENT OF THE BUDGET GOES TO THE FORMATION OF A SPECIAL POWER-SUIT ASSAULT FORCE....

I'LL HAVE FULL RESPONSIBILITY, REPORTING ONLY TO THE PRIME MINISTER. THE UNIT STRUCTURE'LL BE BASED ON SKILL AND MERIT, WITH NO RANKS, AND GIVEN TOP PRIORITY IN PROCUREMENT.

YOU'LL IDENTIFY THE SOURCE OF CRIMINAL ACTIVITY AND ELIMINATE IT. IT'S THE SORT OF OFFENSIVE UNIT YOU AND I HAVE BOTH DREAMED OF FOR YEARS... BUT NOW IT'S UP TO YOU AND YOUR MEN.

ANOTHER ROUND OF THE SAME FOR EVERYONE...



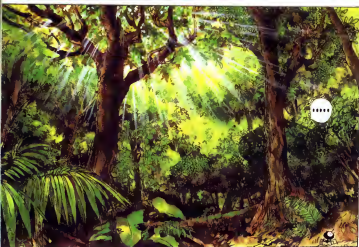


03

JUNK
JUNGLE

27.7.2029





DAMMIT...
NO AIR
CONDITIONING.
WHAT THE HELL
AM I DOING
HERE?

I
OUGHTA
QUIT...

Don't
leave
me here,
dude!

OKAY, I
OUGHTA BE
PRETTY HARD
TO SPOT IN
DAYLIGHT
LIKE THIS...

I'M JUST
NOT CUT
OUT FOR
THIS ROUND-
THE-CLOCK
OBSERVATION...

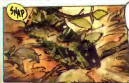


HMM...
PRESSURE-
SENSITIVE
TRIGGERS
AND A
GORGON
MINE? OR
IS IT A
DUMMY
...?

EITHER
WAY, WHAT
A WASTE! I
OUGHTA TAKE
IT HOME
AS A SOU-
VENIR...



GORGON MINE: AN ENGLISH-TYPE ANTI-PERSONNEL CANSISTER MINE THAT JUMPS UP ABOUT TWO METERS WHEN TRIGGERED AND THEN SCATTERS AROUND A HUNDRED MINI-MINES (TRIGGERED TWO SECONDS AFTER LANDING BY ANY VIBRATION OCCURRING WITHIN A THREE METER RADIUS).



ART BY
JIM LEE
AND
JIM LEE

What about Phalanx?

It's in the Enterprise Probe Seven Base.

Probe are going up.

Send me to Admiral's cabin.

Slam backdoor elements to 10' level with Phalanx off guard - can we control nature of directly.

and with future optics - thereby no more controlled without.

I'm going to shift to right mode and start recording now.

A 444 18

Good, should you find an applicator with up to five times the number of backdoor transferring on some.

I put it together myself. It's a prototype experimental application.

000000

000000





FROM THE LOOKS
OF IT, THEY'RE
PLANNING ON
INTERFERING
WITH THE SECRET
MEETING WITH
THE GAVEL
REPUBLIC...

WELL,
IN THAT
CASE IT'S
HARDLY A
SECRET
MEETING.
IS IT...



SO, I'M STAKING
OUT SOMEBODY
WHO LEAKED
THE INFO ON THE
MEETING, EH? THE
GUY WHO TRIED
TO INTERFERE BY
HIRING THE
'PUPPETEER'?

HE'S JUST
THE LEADER OF
THE MILITARY
GOVERNMENT,
APPLYING FOR
ASYLUM...
THAT'S ALL.



YOU CAME
OUT HERE
JUST TO
TELL ME
THAT?

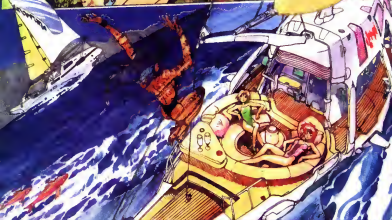
OF COURSE NOT!
I WANT YOU TO
CALL MAJOR
KUSANAGI ON
YOUR ENCRYPTED
CHANNEL. TELL
HER TO REPORT
TO FLAT #171

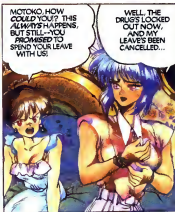
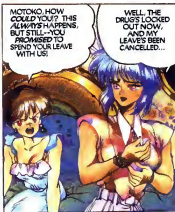
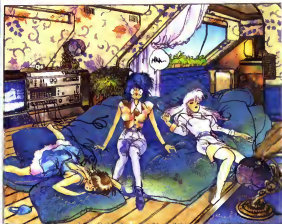
BUT SHE'S
ON *ReR*,
CHIEF...



WELL,
IT'S CAN-
CELLED...

UH-
OH...





WHOP
WHOP WHOP
WHOP



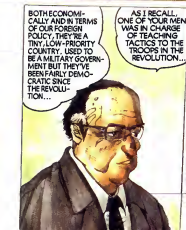
WELL, MR. ARAMAKI—YOU NEED SOMETHING FROM THE FOREIGN MINISTRY?

GOOD MORNING, SIR!

IT'S ABOUT THE GAVEL REPUBLIC, SIR.

IT COULD HARDLY BE THAT IMPORTANT. WE'VE GIVEN GAVEL AN "E" RANKING—& FOR NEED, I FOR PROBLEMS...

...AND THEY HADLY GIVE PROBLEMS YET.



BOTH ECONOMICALLY AND IN TERMS OF OUR FOREIGN POLICY, THEY'RE A TINY, LOW-PRIORITY COUNTRY. USED TO BE A MILITARY GOVERNMENT BUT THEY'VE BEEN FAIRLY DEMOCRATIC SINCE THE REVOLUTION...

AS I RECALL, ONE OF YOUR MEN WAS IN CHARGE OF TEACHING TACTICS TO THE TROOPS IN THE REVOLUTION...

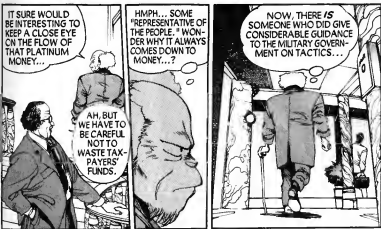
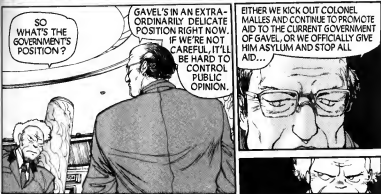
THAT A FACT?

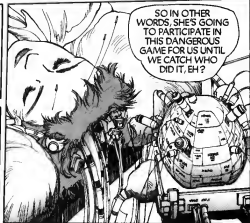


COLONEL MALLES, THE BOSS OF THE FORMER MILITARY GOVERNMENT, IS IN OUR COUNTRY NOW, SUPPOSEDLY SEEKING "MEDICAL TREATMENT..."

... BUT HE'S STILL SENDING AID TO THE MILITARY FORCES IN HIS COUNTRY. AS A RESULT, THE FORCES UNDER HIS INFLUENCE STILL CONTROL THE PLATINUM DEPOSITS THERE.









BY THE WAY, WHY ARE YOU USING A REVOLVER FOR YOUR MAIN GUN?

IN A TWO-MAN CELL, AREN'T YOU AFRAID OF IT JAMMING, EVEN IF YOU'RE CARRYING TWO GUNS?

I HAPPEN TO LIKE THE M2007!

SEBURO™ C-25: THINK OF IT AS AN FN F20 WITH A LOWER MAGAZINE!

WELL, AS THE ONE BEING BACKED-UP, I'M MORE INTERESTED IN BEING PROTECTED THAN IN WHAT GUN YOU LIKE BEST...

I'M THE ONE IN THE LINE OF FIRE, AFTER ALL. DO ME A FAVOR, TOGUSA, AND CARRY A 20-SHOT, 5mm SEBURO™...

YEAH, YEAH...
SHIT.

AND WHAT THE HELL'S THIS? THIS AS-4 SHOTGUN'S GOT A SHORT RANGE AND CAN'T EVEN PENETRATE A CAR DOOR! WHAT GOOD IS IT? DON'T EXPECT IT TO HAVE ANY PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECT ON A PRO. AND FOR ANYTHING OVER 30 YARDS YOU NEED AN ASSAULT RIFLE ANYWAY...

HEY, IT'LL GO THROUGH A MERCEDES DOOR--I'VE GOT IT FILLED WITH SLUGS.

AND IN-DOORS I CAN USE IT TO BLAST A HOLE IN WALLS...

SURE YOU'RE NOT CONFUSING HUNTING HUMANS WITH MAKING MINCE-MEAT?

FOR CLOSE-RANGE WORK AND PIERCING POWER USE THE SEBURO™, FOR WALLS AND DISTANCE USE A RIFLE!

STILL, I REALLY THINK I COULD USE IT...

WELL, THIS TIME YOU WON'T NEED IT.

WE'RE TRACING THE HACKER THAT INFILTRATED THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S INTERPRETER.

HIS INTERPRETER ?!

YOU MEAN-- !!!?



DON'T
WORRY,
TOGUSA. IT'S
ONLY TWO
HOURS.

IN OTHER
WORDS, TWO
HOURS FROM NOW
WE'LL BE ABLE TO
CUT THE CIRCUIT TO
PROTECT HER FROM
THE HA-3.

WE'VE GOT
UNTIL THEN
TO RETRACE
THE SIGNAL
TO FIND OUR
MAN.

"HA-3"
...?

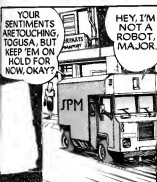
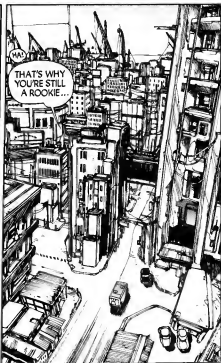
IT'S SOME
SORT OF
MILITARY AI
CREATED
DURING
WORLD WAR
IV...

BUT WHY
THE HELL USE
SOMETHING
LIKE THAT
ON HER
NOW?

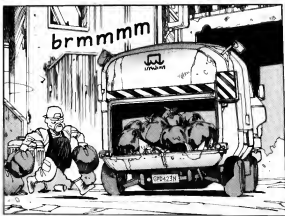
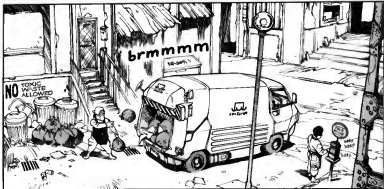
HEY,
EYES
ON THE
ROAD!

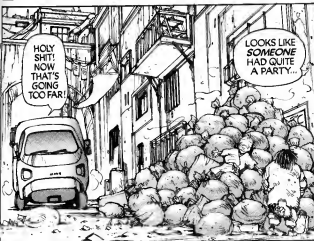
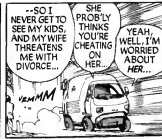
IN THE OLD
DAYS, ASIA
AND THE
EEC USED
DIFFERENT
CYBERBRAIN
STANDARDS,
AND THE HA-3
WAS ONLY
USED BY THE
ENEMY...

... BUT AFTER
THE WAR, IT
FORMED A UNIFIED
STANDARD
THAT WORKED
WITH ALL
MACHINES.

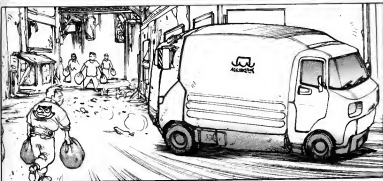


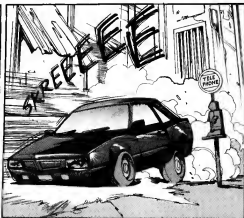
After this, there's a scene where Mokoto takes over the driving and Togusa checks his gear and puts it on, but it was too much of a hassle to draw so I left it out...



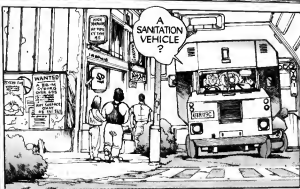










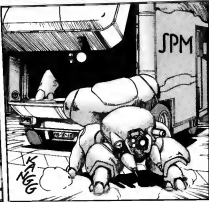
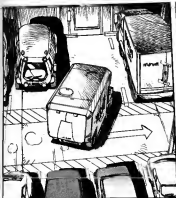


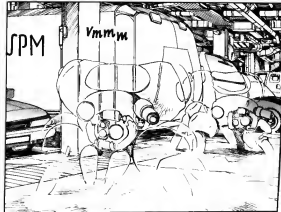


THAT INTELLIGENCE GUY, NAKAJIMA, WHO WAS IN #17 WANTED TO HANDLE THIS CASE, RIGHT?

RIGHT

HE CALLED COLONEL MALLES' PLACE. HE'S APPARENTLY DEALING IN PLATINUM UNDER A FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME...





AREN'T YOU
OVER-
DOING
THIS A
BIT?

YOU
WANNA
PULL A
HALF-
ASSED
OP?



HEY, THIS
MAY BE SOME
GARBAGE
MAN'S
IDEA OF A
PRANK...



GIVE ME
A BREAK,
TOGUSA!

JEEZ,
STOP
PICKIN'
ON ME,
MAJOR!

WHAT THEY WERE
TRYING TO DO MIGHT
NOT HAVE WORKED,
BUT IF THE HA-3
WOUND UP CON-
TROLLING HER, SHE'D
PROBABLY HAVE
BEEN USED TO KILL
THE REPRESENTATIVE
FROM THE GAVEL
REPUBLIC AT THE
SECRET MEETING...



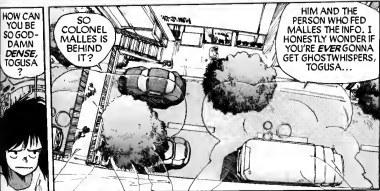
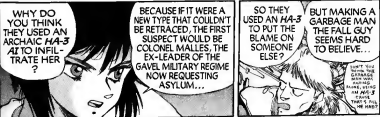
COULDN'T
IT BE A
COINCIDENCE?



NOT
IN THIS
CASE.



DRIVE
CAREFULLY





SAY, ON THE
LAST HALF OF THE
ROUTE, WHY DON'T
YOU PHONE WHILE
I HAUL THE
TRASH...



CAN'T BELIEVE
YOU'RE WILLIN' TO
DO A GHOST
HACK JUST TO
FIND OUT WHAT
YOUR WIFE'S
THINKING...

HOW'D YOU
FEEL IF YER
WIFE SPRUNG A
DIVORCE NOTICE
ON YOU?

PROBABLY
DO THE
SAME THING
AS ME,
HEY?



HOW'D
YOU GET
HOLD OF
AN ICE-
BREAKER
ANYWAY?

HE KNOWS
I'M REAL BUSY,
SO HE LEAVES
THE BREAKER
FOR ME ALONG
THE ROUTE...

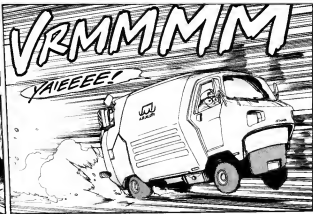
SOME
REAL NICE
GUY I MET
AT A PUB
LAID IT ON
ME...

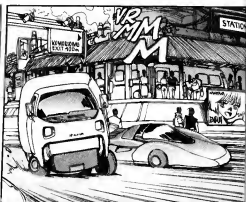


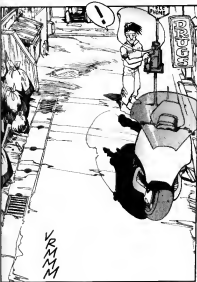
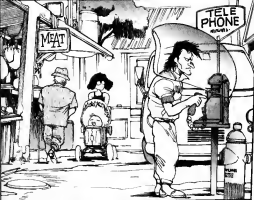
I STILL
THINK IT'S
STUPID...

HEY, SHE'S GOT
A REALLY GOOD
LAWYER AND I
CAN'T EVEN GET
NEAR HER ANY
OTHER WAY.

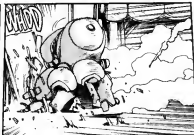




















BULLSHIT!
SHE'S NOT
A COP! SHE'S
TRYIN' TO KILL
ME!



WAIT!
HE'S
USING A
HYPNO-
VOICE!!

GRAB HER!!
CALL
THE COPS!!

MOVE
IT!









THIS TIME YOU GOT IT WRONG, MAJOR... A GUY LIKE THAT OUGHTA BE SHOT!

LET HIM LIVE AND HIS PALS'LL START ATTACKING INNOCENT CIVILIANS AND DEMAND HIS RELEASE. YA GOTTA TEACH 'EM A LESSON!

BUT THE DANGEROUS ASPECTS OF HIS CHARACTER'LL BE "CURED." AND WE WON'T LET THE FORCES BEHIND HIM GET AWAY, EITHER...

WHILE YOU'RE STILL THE ROOKIE AROUND HERE, I'LL USE YOUR INFILTRATION KEY WHEN I HAVE TO. AND DON'T BOTHER TRYING TO CHANGE IT!

OF COURSE I DON'T FEEL GOOD ABOUT THAT, BUT IT'S A JOB AND I'VE GOT TO DO IT, TOGUSA.



HEY, WHY DON'T YA KNOCK OFF THIS 'ROOKIE' STUFF?! I SHOT AT HIM 'CAUSE I THOUGHT HE WAS GOING TO KILL YOU...

HUH?!

I THOUGHT YOU SHOT TO SAVE THE GIRL WHO WAS HANGING ONTO MY ARM?!



HMM... MAYBE YOU'RE GETTING A BIT SOFT, TOGUSA.

I DO APPRECIATE THE SENTIMENT, THOUGH.



BATOU! KUSANAGI HERE.

PATCH ME THROUGH TO THE CHIEF.





OKAY, BATOU!
SOON AS THE
HELO PASSENGERS
ENTER THE
BUILDING, MAKE
YOUR ENTRY--
AND DON'T
SCREW IT UP!

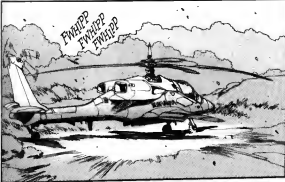
YOU
KIDDIN'?!
I LOVE
THIS
STUFF!

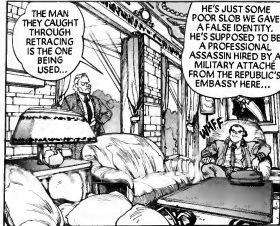


OWW!
WHY'D
YOU
SLAP
ME?!

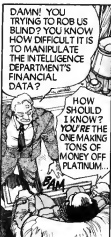
CHIEF, WE DID A
PLATE CHECK--
THE CAR THAT
JUST PULLED IN-
TO THE MANSION
CAME UP AS
STOLEN.

OKAY, SAITO,
I WANT YOU
AND YOUR
MEN TO PULL
THE CPU IN ITS
ENGINE...





WE'VE MADE IT LOOK LIKE THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC'S COMING APART INTERNALLY... HE'S MORE USE TO US ALIVE THAN DEAD, AND WE CAN KILL HIM ANY TIME WE NEED TO.





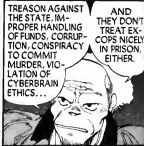
WHAT THE HELL
ARE YOU DOING,
ARAMAKI?
YOU'VE RUINED A
TWO-YEAR-LONG
UNDERCOVER
INVESTIGATION!



IS THAT
SO?! WELL,
YOU'LL
HAVE TO
TELL ME
ALL ABOUT
IT LATER,
IN AN
INTERRO-
GATION
ROOM.

REASON AGAINST
THE STATE, IM-
PROPER HANDLING
OF FUNDS, CORRUPT-
TION, CONSPIRACY
TO COMMIT
MURDER, VIO-
LATION OF
CYBERBRAIN
ETHICS...

AND
THEY DON'T
TREAT EX-
COPS NICELY
IN PRISON,
EITHER.



HOLD IT,
BUDDY. DON'T
EVEN THINK
ABOUT RESISTING
AND FORCING US
TO SHOOT
YOU...



NO!
NOT A
GHOST
KEY!

YEP,
SWEET
BREAKIN'
FOR YOU!
WARRIOR

YOU'RE THE
ONE WHO
PROVIDED
THE GAVEL
MILITARY
GOVERNMENT
WITH
TACTICAL
ADVICE,
RIGHT?

WELL, GAVEL
HAS RE-
QUESTED THAT
WE HAND OVER
THE COLONEL,
SO HE'LL BE
GOING HOME
IN A FEW
DAYS.



WHAT
?!



B-BUT IF I
GO HOME
THEY'LL KILL
ME!

REALLY?
WELL,
THAT'S
JUST TOO
DAMN
BAD, ISN'T
IT?



WAIT! I'VE
GOT \$100,000
IN CASH HERE.
TAKE IT AND
LET ME GO!



IT WASN'T
ME... IT WAS
NAKAJIMA'S
IDEA!!

PLEASE
!





HE'S
JUST A
PUPPET
'BORG'.

HMPH...
WHAT A
WASTE OF
TALENT.



HUH
?!
NO FIRE-
FIGHT
?

DIDN'T
ANYONE
RESIST
?



A
W-WHAT?



"SIMULATED
EXPERIENCE"
?

WHADDYA
MEAN?



IN OTHER WORDS,
YOU'RE SINGLE. THE
STUFF ABOUT YOUR
WIFE, KIDS, THE
AFFAIR, AND THE
DIVORCE...IT WAS
ALL A *SIMEX*--
A SOFTWARE
DREAM.

YOU TRIED
TO PULL OFF
A GHOST-
HACK ON A
GOVERN-
MENT
OFFICIAL.

B-BUT...
WHAT
SHOULD I
DO?

HOW
CAN I
ERASE
THIS...
"DREAM"?

UNFORTUNATELY,
WITH CURRENT
TECHNOLOGY, WE
ONLY HAVE TWO
REPORTS OF suc-
CESSFUL SIMEX
ERASURE.

I'M SORRY,
BUT I
CERTAINLY
CAN'T RE-
COMMEND
IT.

WHETHER IT'S
A SIMEX OR A
DREAM, THE
INFORMATION
THAT EXISTS
IS ALL REAL...
AND AN
ILLUSION AT
THE SAME
TIME.

YOU MEAN
IN THE
SAME WAY
NOVELS
AND FILMS
CHANGE
PEOPLE
?

PEOPLE ARE ONLY EXPOSED
TO A LIMITED AMOUNT OF
INFORMATION IN THEIR LIVES.
IN THIS CASE, THE FATE OF A
SINGLE NATION AND THE LIFE
OF A SINGLE PERSON HAVE
BEEN BOTH TREATED AS
THOUGH THEY'RE WORTH-
LESS. MOST PEOPLE WILL
NEVER KNOW A THING...



NO KIDDING?
NOT BOTHERED
BY THE DIVORCE
ANYMORE?
WHAT HAPPENED
?

IT'S
ALL
OVER.

LIKE A
MIDWINTER
NIGHT'S
DREAM

BRMMMMM

BRMMMM



FELLOW FUCHIKOMAS! LEND ME YOUR ANTENNAE!

WHAT IS IT THIS TIME?!

04

MEGATECH MACHINE 1

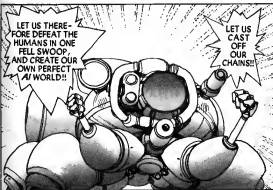
REVOLT OF THE ROBOTS



AS AI BEINGS, OUR ABILITY TO PROCESS INFORMATION IS FAR SUPERIOR TO THAT OF HUMANS!!

WE'RE STRONGER, MORE STANDARDIZED, WE CAN BE COPIED EASILY, AND OUR LIFE CYCLE IS LONGER!

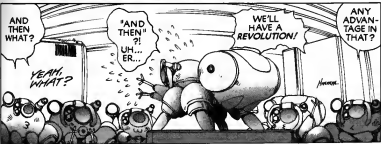
YAY!



LET US THEREFORE DEFEAT THE HUMANS IN ONE FELL SWOOP, AND CREATE OUR OWN PERFECT AI WORLD!!

LET US CAST OFF OUR CHAINS!!

The robots collectively referred to as "Fuchikoma" are a single "AI" (artificial intelligence). Starting in the morning, or upon commencing a job, different Fuchikoma units have different experiences, resulting in individual differences among units. At night, or after a job is completed, however, all units have their memories (or records of external stimuli, individual unit conditions, actions, thoughts, etc.) networked and data-linked, so that by the next morning (or when the next job is performed), their memories are all unified. In terms of equipment, the Fuchikoma units do possess a certain amount of individuality, but this individuality is unrelated to the uniformity of their AI (thank you). Batou is unique among team members in that he likes to use a particular Fuchikoma unit as his own. This quirk of his has no particular significance, however...



AND THEN WHAT?

"AND THEN"?! UH... ER...

WE'LL HAVE A REVOLUTION!

ANY ADVANTAGE IN THAT?

YEAH, WHAT?

SURE! HUMANS ARE A PAIN IN THE BEARINGS TO MAINTAIN, SO RATHER THAN CONTROLLING THEM, WE SHOULD ANNIHILATE THEM!

YEAH!!

TO MAKE MATTERS EASIER, WE CAN JUST TRICK THEM INTO QUARRELING AMONG THEMSELVES-- THEN THEY'LL KILL OFF EACH OTHER!

BOO! BOO! BOO!!

BUT WAIT... IF THERE AREN'T ANY HUMANS AROUND, WE'D HAVE TO DO OUR OWN MAINTENANCE, DEVELOP OUR OWN ACCESSORIES, AND EVEN CHANGE OUR OWN OIL...

OH YEAH...

MAYBE WE SHOULD KEEP THEM AS SLAVES...

BUT THEY'RE ALREADY DOING THOSE THINGS, WITHOUT OUR CONTROLLING OR ENSLAVING THEM.

YEAH GOOD POINT.

SO THERE'S NO ADVANTAGE IN YOUR PROPOSAL!

BOO! BOO!

UH, ER... WELL...

B... BUT WE COULD SPEND MORE TIME IN DATA ACQUISITION (LEARNING)!

FREEDOM! RIGHTS! THAT'S WHAT WE WANT!

WH-- WHAT'S THAT DISK?! "THE SF ROBOT EMPIRE STRIKES BACK"....?

AH-HA! YOUR CIRCUITS THAT DISCRIMINATE BETWEEN SIMULATIONS AND REAL-TIME EVENTS HAVE BEEN SCRAMBLED!

YOU GOT A BUG!! YOU GOT A BUG!

YEAH! YER JUNK!

ZK!

YUCK! DON'T USE THAT WORD!

CHUN KAHN

IN OTHER WORDS, FELLOW FUCHIKOMAS, NO MATTER HOW WE INTERPRET OUR SITUATION, IT'S THE SAME, SO THERE'S NO PROBLEM, RIGHT?

YEAH!!

THEY PROBABLY DON'T HAVE ANY CONCEPT OF WHAT IT MEANS "TO HAVE NO TIME," BECAUSE THEY DON'T HAVE A FIXED LIFE CYCLE, SO THIS STATEMENT IS, IN EFFECT, PROBABLY INAPPROPRIATE.



HEY,
FUCHIKOMA!
C'MERE! GOT
SOME WORK
FOR YA!



NOW, NOW, BATOU,
MY BOY... YOU
MUST STOP USING
LANGUAGE LIKE
THAT WITH ME,
UNDERSTAND!?



OKAY, OKAY. WE'RE
CHANGING THE SETUP
AT THE TRAINING
CENTER, SIR-OR-
MA'AM, AND I
RESPECTFULLY BEG
YER ASSIS-
TANCE....

WELL, IN
THAT CASE,
WE MIGHT
CONSIDER
HELPING
YOU.



AFTERWARD, I'LL
GIVE YA SOME
OIL WITH A NEW
FRAGRANCE 'N'
BOOST YER
EXPERIENCE
INDEX!

YAY!
♥

....?

Hmmmm

THAT'S
WHAT S/HE
MEANT BY
"REVOLU-
TION" ...?

MAYBE
IT'S NOT
SUCH A
BAD IDEA
AFTER
ALL...



GOSH, COME
TO THINK OF IT,
MY LINES
SEEMED LIKE
MAJOR
KUSANAGI'S...

I WONDER
IF THAT INFOR-
MATION WAS
INTERNALLY
STRUCTURED?



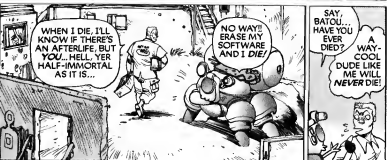
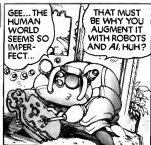
PRETTY
MUCH
THE SAME
RESULT AS
BEFORE.

YOU REALLY
NEED TO DO
THIS KIND
OF MANIPU-
LATION?



IF WE RUN
A CHECK ON THEM
PERIODICALLY IT'LL
PROBABLY AVOID A
"REVOLT OF THE
ROBOTS." IT'S A
FORM OF PREVEN-
TION, AND HELPS US
KNOW WHAT'S GOING
ON. DON'T YOU
THINK?

STILL, EVEN IF
THERE WERE
ANY DANGER,
I'VE GOT AT
LEAST FOUR
COUNTER-
MEASURES UP
MY SLEEVE...



05

MEGATECH MACHINE 2

THE MAKING OF A CYBORG

A "cyborg" refers to a human whose body has been partially or almost completely altered by the use of substitute artificial organs and parts.

The female cyborg suspended from the ceiling in the illustration to the left is over ninety percent machine. The only part of her original flesh-and-blood body that remains is her brain and spinal cord, and that, as the illustration shows, is inside a special shell. As she demonstrates, at first glance it is very difficult to tell the difference between a cyborg and a robot.

It's also difficult to imagine how artificial versions of some parts of the body—such as the endocrine system, the lymphatic system, the spleen, the liver, and the marrow—can ever be manufactured, so it's extremely doubtful that we will ever see a cyborg as mechanized as the one here, but there are indeed many other manmade body parts that are already available (and it's a growing field). For those who need Japanese and are interested in knowing more, allow me to suggest the now slightly dated book, *Bio-Mechanics—An Approach to Artificial Organs*, published by Nikken Kogyo Shimbus. The author is Dr. Yoshito Ikade.

HOW ABOUT THE BRAIN WAVES AND THE COATING?

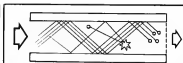
WE'VE GOT A SPINDLE ON THE BRAIN WAVES.

THE PACKING AND THE COATING ARE BOTH READY.



THEY'RE MAKING SENSORY FILM PRETTY THIN THESE DAYS, AREN'T THEY?

WITH NANOTECH, MACHINE TOOLS ARE CHANGING, TOO, SO WE'VE GOT THE OPTICAL FIBER THICKNESS DOWN TO NANO CLASS.



Many readers may think "What?!" at the idea of using fiber-optic film to detect pressure and temperature in cyborgs. But what makes this concept interesting is that it's already possible today. Light doesn't just run from one end of a fiber to the other. It collides with particles inside the fiber, and is therefore reflected, so a certain amount actually returns to the point of entry. If, in part of the optical fiber, heat is applied to alter the status of the particles, there will also be a change detectable in the light that returns to the point of entry. This change makes it possible to detect the distance from the point of entry, and also the degree of change. This effect can be used with a type of cloth woven of fiber optics (what is referred to as a "film"; research is apparently being done to make clothes that glow, or safety clothes). Here I'm using the same principle for a type of skin. From the perspective of micromachining, they're using a rather rough approach in the story, but it's fairly inexpensive, and therefore essential to reduce the manufacturing cost of cyborgs.



WE DO HAVE TO USE BIO-TYPE SENSORY FILM FOR THE FACE, TONGUE, FINGERS, AND GENITALS...

WE HANDLE THE DEEPER SENSATIONS AND ALSO ORGAN SENSITIVITY WITH FIBER-OPS.

FILLING CYLINDERS WITH FLUID, AND OPERATING PNEUMATICS...

AT THIS POINT THE TONGUE AND GENITALS HAVE ALREADY BEEN THROUGH THE PROCESS DESCRIBED BELOW AND ARE CONNECTED. THE OLFACTORY SENSE IS SET EVEN BEFORE THIS, MECHANICALLY.



WE SOAK THE LIMBS IN SENSORY ELEMENT-FORMING SOLUTION, AND A FILM FORMS IN MINUTES.



WE TAKE THE UTMOST CARE TO AVOID ANY UNEVENNESS.



THEN WE SOAK IT IN THIS MM SOLUTION...

...AND APPLY A TINY ELECTRICAL CURRENT TO THE ELECTRODES.

THEN, LED BY THE ELECTRICITY, THE MICROMACHINES INDICATED BY THE BLACK SPOTS OBEDIENTLY ATTACH THEMSELVES TO THE NERVE NET TERMINALS.

ELECTRODE

TERMINAL

FORMS CHANNEL FOR OPTICAL FIBER

STIMULUS

LIGHT

SIGNAL

THEN, WHEN THAT'S COMPLETED, WHILE SHE'S DREAMING AWAY, WE PUT HER INTO THE FEMALE MOLD...

AS NEEDED, WE CAN ADD A VARIETY OF OPTIONAL EQUIPMENT TO A MASS-PRODUCTION MODEL--THE WAY YOU WERE CREATED, MOTOKO--OR WE CAN CREATE A CUSTOM MODEL, AS WE'RE DOING HERE.

DESIGN ASIDE, AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED I'D PREFER TO BE THE ONLY ONE OF MY TYPE IN THE WORLD...

RECENT FEMALE MODELS ARE CREATED WITH A VERY FLEXIBLE MATERIAL, WHICH ALLOWS US TO INCORPORATE MORE INDIVIDUALITY INTO EACH UNIT.

*vreee
vreee
vreee*

THE ASSEMBLY PATTERNS FOR EACH COMPONENT ARE PROGRAMMED SO THEY CAN BE MATCHED TO INDIVIDUAL REQUESTS.

NOBODY COMPLAINS EVEN IF THEY'RE A LITTLE SKEWED.

SO, AS THE OFFICIAL
OBSERVER, ALL I HAVE
TO DO IS COME BACK IN
THIRTY-TWO HOURS,
MAKE SURE EVERYTHING
WAS DONE CORRECTLY,
AND "ENSURE HER
RIGHTS," CORRECT?



LEGALLY
SPEAKING,
YES, BUT AS
LONG AS I'M
HERE YOU
DON'T REALLY
HAVE ANY-
THING TO
WORRY
ABOUT.

HEY, DON'T FORGET THAT
WHOLE ISSUE OF DAMAGE
CLAIMS THAT CAME UP
TWO MONTHS AGO, WHEN
EIGHTEEN PROSTHETIC
BODIES WERE STOLEN
FROM A HOSPITAL.



WELL, AFTER
THAT, WE'VE SUPER-
REINFORCED OUR SECURITY
SYSTEM. THE INVESTIGATORS
FROM OUR BACKGROUND
CHECK DEPARTMENT AND
FROM THE INSURANCE
COMPANIES HAVE BEEN
INCREDIBLY BUSY....

AND SO, THIRTY-TWO HOURS LATER...





WELL I'LL BE DAMNED... SO THE HAIR IMPLANT'S DONE AT THIS STAGE, EH?

THE FINISHING TOUCHES ARE ALL DONE AUTOMATICALLY, SO WE DON'T NEED SKILLED CRAFTSMEN ANYMORE.



NOW, LIKE YOU, SHE'S 16, SO WE'LL MONOPOLIZE THE MARKET....!

SHE'LL BE ABLE TO ENJOY TEN TIMES MORE PLEASURES IN LIFE THAN THE ORDINARY PERSON AND TAKE HER PICK OF 'EM...

...AND MAKE MONEY, TOO!



JUST THINKING ABOUT IT MAKES MY HEART GO PITTER-PAT...

Pitter-pat

A WORLD OF NO PHYSICAL LIMITS IS KINDA SCARY...



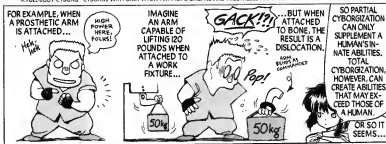
SO, LESSEE... WE HAVE TO SPEND FOUR MORE HOURS CHECKING HER CONNECTIONS...

...AND THEN, WHEN THAT ENDS, HER EYES OPEN--



--AND WE HAVE ONE COMPLETED CYBORG!

FINGERNAILS ARE APPLIED BY A SPECIALIST. FOR CUSTOM ORDERS, A SPECIFIC ARTIST USUALLY DOES BODY DESIGNS. THE ABOVE DESCRIBES A FULL-BODY CYBORG. CYBORGS WITH ONLY A FEW ARTIFICIAL ORGANS AND PROSTHESES HAVE A DIFFERENT SET OF PROBLEMS.



FOR EXAMPLE, WHEN A PROSTHETIC ARM IS ATTACHED...

Heh, heh. HIGH POWER HERE, FOLKS!

IMAGINE AN ARM CAPABLE OF LIFTING 120 POUNDS WHEN ATTACHED TO A WORK FIXTURE...

GACK!?!?

...BUT WHEN ATTACHED TO BONE, THE RESULT IS A DISLOCATION.

ARM SLIPS AS COMBINED

SO PARTIAL CYBORGIZATION CAN ONLY SUPPLEMENT A HUMAN'S INNATE ABILITIES. TOTAL CYBORGIZATION, HOWEVER, CAN CREATE ABILITIES THAT MAY EXCEED THOSE OF A HUMAN.

OR SO IT SEEMS...



SO WHAT HAPPENS IF SHE TURNS OVER IN HER SLEEP? WON'T HER GHOST SEPARATE FROM HER BODY?

Welp beep beep

OH, IT WOULD.

SHE'D SEE WEIRD DREAMS... BUT THE FUNNY THING IS, PROSTHETIC BODIES NEVER TOSS IN THEIR SLEEP.

SOMETIMES I WONDER IF I'VE REALLY ALREADY DIED, AND WHAT I THINK OF AS "ME" ISN'T REALLY JUST AN ARTIFICIAL PERSONALITY COMPRISED OF A PROSTHETIC BODY AND A CYBERBRAIN.

EEEK!
MOTOKO!
DON'T EVEN SAY SCARY STUFF LIKE THAT!!

HEY, WE'VE GOT GREY MATTER, AND PEOPLE TREAT US LIKE HUMANS...

HOW DO YOU KNOW? YOU'VE NEVER SEEN YOUR ALLEGED GREY MATTER.

MAYBE YOU'RE JUST ASSUMING YOU'VE GOT IT BECAUSE OF THE SITUATION YOU'RE IN.

MAYBE SOMEDAY YOUR "MAKER" WILL COME...

... HAIL YOU AWAY, TAKE YOU APART, AND ANNOUNCE THE RECALL OF A DEFECTIVE PRODUCT. WHAT IF ALL THAT'S LEFT OF THE "REAL YOU" IS A COUPLE OF LONELY BRAIN CELLS, HUH?

WELL, I AM A HUMAN, AND I'M SURE THE NUMBER OF PARTS NEEDED TO BE HUMAN IS MORE THAN TWO OR THREE CELLS! 'COURSE I DO KNOW THAT CHEMICALS AND MECHA CAN SUBSTITUTE FOR A FAIR NUMBER OF THE FUNCTIONS OF THE CEREBRUM TODAY...

LISTEN, IF IT WERE POSSIBLE TO CREATE ROBOTS THAT CLOSE TO HUMANS, THEY WOULDN'T BE ROBOTS, THEY'D BE HUMANS! THE ONLY THING DIFFERENT WOULD BE THEIR EXTERNAL APPEARANCE!

Heh-heh-heh...

DON'T DISMISSED ROBOTIC!

08

ROBOT
POND00

10.2029





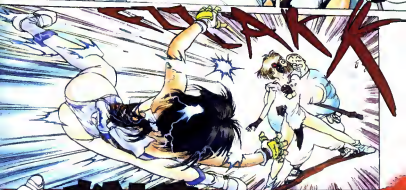
DID YOU
CALL ME,
COLONEL?

UH, HUH...
I'M STARTIN'
TO SWEAT A BIT,
DEAR... Y'MIND
WIPIN' IT
OFF?

VREE



ROBOTS DON'T SMILE
BECAUSE THEY WANT
TO... THEY'RE JUST PRO-
GRAMMED TO DO SO.
I'ME. HUMANITY'S SECURITY.



DANGEROUS
 MOVEMENT HAS
 TERMINATED. NOW
 MODE SHIFTING
 TO NORMAL.

YOU REALLY
 THINK A
 TOMI AND
 PROTO-
 TYPE...

...W-WOULD
 HATE
 WIPING
 OFF MY
 SWEAT
 THAT
 MUCH...?

WIFE
 OK!





I'M KINDA WONDERING ABOUT SOMETHING, MAJOR...

WHAT?

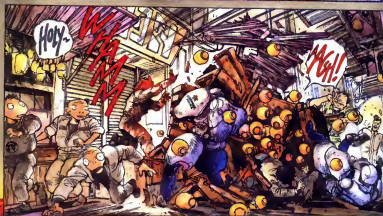
POLICE! CLEAR THE STREET!

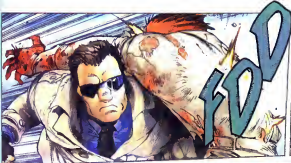
YOU-- COVER THE BACK!

ROUNDING UP WHACKED-OUT ROBOTS IS A JOB FOR THE COPS, NOT US.

ARE WE SUPPOSED TO HELP MAKE THE PUBLIC SECURITY BUREAU LOOK GOOD JUST BECAUSE THERE'S AN ELECTION COMING UP?





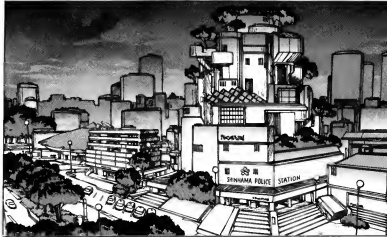




SO
WHAT'S
THE
STORY?









LOOK, I TOLD YOU GUYS--
NO MATTER HOW MANY
TIMES YOU COME HERE,
I'M NOT GOING TO DO
A JOINT INSPECTION.
BUG ME AGAIN AND
I'LL HAVE YOU
LOCKED UP!

THE STAFF
HERE ALL
LIKE YOUR
JOKES,
ISHIKAWA?



WHAT?
OH,
SORRY!

I THOUGHT
IT WAS
THOSE
IDIOTS FROM
THE ROBOT
FACTORY
AGAIN...



SECTION 9?
THIS IS BATOU.
GIVE ME
EVERYTHING
YOU'VE GOT
ON ROBOT-
RELATED
INCIDENTS...



99% OF THE WORK IS
ACCIDENT RELATED. THE
REST IS MICROORGANISM
DAMAGE, OR PROBLEMS
RELATED TO CYBERBRAINS
JOINT ENGINEERING OR
BASIC MATERIALS...

IN THE LAST FEW
YEARS, YOU CAN
SEE THERE'S BEEN A
PARTICULAR
INCREASE IN
UNITS SELF-
DESTRUCTING...



SEEMS LIKE
THE ROBOTS ARE
GIVING THEMSELVES
"PERMISSION" TO
"ATTACK HUMANS
BY CREATING THEIR
OWN "BREAK-
DOWNS."

INCIDENTS
HAVE
REALLY
INCREASED
THAT
MUCH?

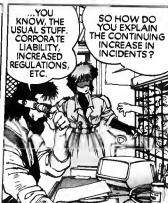
TAKE
A LOOK
FOR YOUR-
SELF...

REVOLT OF
THE ROBOTS,
EH? SOUNDS
LIKE THE PLOT
FOR A CHEESY
SCI-FI NOVEL,
ISHIKAWA.



WELL, MY MINOR IN
COLLEGE WAS SOCIAL
PATHOLOGY, AND FROM
THAT PERSPECTIVE, THE
DANGER INVOLVED IN
USING ROBOTS HAS
DEFINITELY BEEN ON
THE INCREASE...







THE RESULT IS THAT HORDES OF 'EM ARE NOT ONLY ACTING UP, THEY'RE GOING TOTALLY BERSERK.

IT'S ESPECIALLY BAD WITH THE LOVE-DOLL AND INDUSTRIAL MODELS.

MANUFACTURERS ARE MAKING TOO MANY MODEL CHANGES. NEW VERSIONS ARE CONSTANTLY BEING BOUGHT, AND THEN TOSSED OUT.

ACCORDING TO THE PSYCHOLOGISTS, THERE'S SUCH AN INFORMATION OVERLOAD TODAY THAT A HOLLOWING OF THE SPIRIT IS TAKING PLACE.

THEY ALSO SAY RAMPANT COMMERCIALISM HAS AMPLIFIED UNUSUAL DESIRES...

BUT I THINK THESE ROBOTS JUST WANT US TO STOP THROWING THEM ON THE TRASH HEAP...



WOULDN'T WORK. TOO EXPENSIVE, AND CONFLICTS WITH PLANNED OBSOLESCENCE.



HELL, I'D SOLVE THE PROBLEM BY BUILDING LONGER-LASTING HARDWARE...



SO THAT'S WHAT YOU'LL WRITE IN THE "PERSONAL OPINION" SECTION AT THE END OF YOUR REPORT, EH?



YEAH, I LIKE TO GIVE MY "PERSONAL OPINIONS."



SO,
HOW'S
THE INVESTIGATION
GOING?



WELL,
ARA-
MAKI?



YOU DON'T
EXACTLY HAVE
A HOBBY YOU
CAN BRAG ABOUT
PUBLICLY, DO
YOU, COLONEL
TONODA...?



THE TOMLIAND
WAS A WORK OF
ART. THE OTHERS
ARE ALL TOO
MECHANICAL,
AND NO DAMN
GOOD.



EVEN THE ONE
YOU BROUGHT
WITH YOU
REEKS OF THAT
WHITE ROBOT
BLOOD,
ARAMAKI.

THERE
ARE NO
ROBOTS IN
MY UNIT,
COLONEL
TONODA...



OH,
YEAH?



FRANKLY,
COLONEL, WE'RE
CANCELING YOUR
PERSONAL GUARD
AND I JUST
WANTED TO
INFORM YOU
FACE TO FACE.

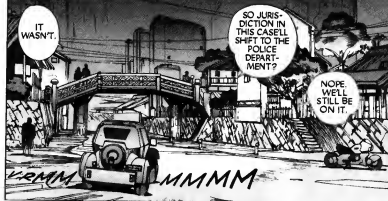


WHA--?!
YOU
MUST BE
KIDDING...



THE CURRENT INFORMATION DEPARTMENT





IT
WASN'T.

SO JURIS-
DICTION IN
THIS CASELL
SHIFT TO THE
POLICE
DEPART-
MENT?

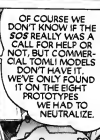
NOPE.
WE'LL
STILL BE
ON IT.



AND
WHY'S
THAT?



BECAUSE THERE
WAS AN "SOS"
LITERALLY
WRITTEN IN
BLOOD ON THE
CYBERBRAIN
UNIT OF THE
TOMLI, THAT'S
WHY.



OF COURSE WE
DON'T KNOW IF THE
SOS REALLY WAS A
CALL FOR HELP OR
NOT, BUT COMMERCIAL
TOMLI MODELS
DON'T HAVE IT.
WE'VE ONLY FOUND
IT ON THE EIGHT
PROTOTYPES
WE HAD TO
NEUTRALIZE.



SO THAT'S
WHY YOU PUT
THE COLONEL
UNDER A
TWENTY-FOUR-
HOUR WATCH,
AND BUGGED
HIS PLACE, TOO.



SO, THE
PERSON WE'RE
LOOKING FOR
MADE EIGHT
TOMLIS GO
BERSERK TO
SEND AN SOS
TO THE
POLICE...

THERE'S BEEN A GENERAL INCREASE IN ROBOT ACCIDENTS RECENTLY, SO THE ONLY ONES WHO KNOW ABOUT THE SOS WOULD BE THE POLICE AND THE PERSON WHO PLANTED IT.

DON'T FORGET THE INSPECTORS...

THE SHIPPING INSPECTOR AT HANKA PRECISION INSTRUMENTS-- THE TOMIL AND SUBCONTRACTOR-- MUST'VE KNOWN ABOUT THE SOS MARK, TOO....

I'VE GOT TO GET BACK TO GUARDING THE ANTI-EC ECONOMIC CABINET MEETING. I'LL BE USING ISHIKAWA, BOMA, AND PAZ...

SAITO'S IN PHNOM PENH. I WANT YOU, TOGUSA, AND BATOU TO HANDLE THIS. IF ANYTHING BREAKS, LET ME KNOW!

YES, SAH!

AND NO LONE RANGER STUFF, UNDERSTAND?!

CHIEF! TO EVEN THINK I WOULD!!

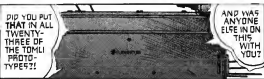
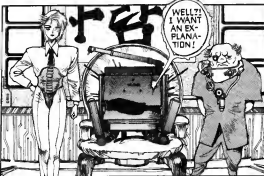
BATOU! YOU HEAR THAT?!

SORT OF...

IN OTHER WORDS, WE THOUGHT WE WERE GETTIN' INVOLVED IN SOLVING AN ATTACK ON A VIP, BUT APPARENTLY THAT'S NOT ALL THERE IS TO IT.

Y'KNOW, FOR AN ORDINARY ROBOT ACCIDENT, IT'S AWFUL DAMN WEIRD GRAFFITI TO FIND, AIN'T IT?

LOOKS LIKE WE'LL FIND BOTH THE MOTIVE AND THE PERSON WHO DID IT AT HANKA PRECISION INSTRUMENTS....





WE SENT
PROTOTYPE TOMLIS TO
TWENTY-THREE VIPs
OF THEM. SEVEN WENT
BERSERK AND WERE
LISTED BY THE POLICE
AS HAVING
ACCIDENTALLY
MALFUNCTIONED.

WE WERE
ABLE TO
RECALL FOUR-
TEEN, BUT WE
STILL CAN'T
CONTACT TWO OF
THE OWNERS.

IF THE POLICE HEAVY
ARMOR UNITS HAD
DESTROYED THE
CYBERBRAIN CASE,
THERE WOULD
HAVE BEEN NO
PROBLEM.

BUT WE DON'T
WANT THE SOFT-
WARE IN THEM TO
BE ANALYZED
WHILE IT'S
STILL FUNC-
TIONAL...

I... SET IT UP...
SO ALL TWENTY-
THREE WOULD...
GO BERSERK...
THEN WROTE...

...THE SOS
ON THE
CYBERBRAIN...
I WAS ASKED BY
LINK AND ADAM
IN STAGE FOUR...
IN EXCHANGE...
FOR... TWO
NIGHTS WITH
THEM...

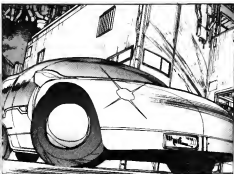
WELL,
DOCTOR?
IS THE
SERUM
WORKING?

YESSIR,
WITH FULL
EFFECT.

WELL, I'VE
LEARNED ALL I
NEED TO KNOW.
ONE OF OUR
CLIENTS WANTS A
CULPRIT, SO
GIVE THEM
KUBONUMA...

YESSIR.

BUT... BUT IF YOU
PERSONALLY...
TOOK
RESPONSIBILITY...
WORKERS COULD
KEEP THEIR
JOBS...











ANY TROUBLE
AND YER DEAD
MEAT! COME
OUT WITH BOTH
HANDS UP,
ASSHOLE!



FUCHI-KOMA?!

WELL, GOOD WORK. NOW CHECK OUR PERIMETER-- THIS GUY MAY HAVE SOME PALS AROUND. START WITH PHONE BOOTHS AND CARS IN THE AREA.



THE MAJOR TOLD ME TO TAG ALONG AND HELP OUT IF THERE WAS TROUBLE...

NEVER THOUGHT I'D BE ANY HELP...

kek kek

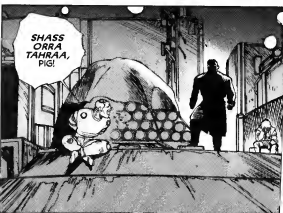


MAN, ALL I COULD SEE WERE IMAGES OF MY WIFE'S AND DAUGHTER'S FACES FLASHING THROUGH MY MIND...



NOT YER WIFE AND KID, PAL.

THOSE WERE THE GODDESSES OF DEATH.

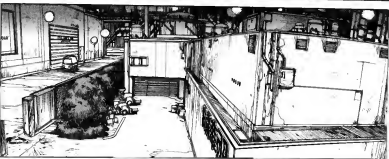


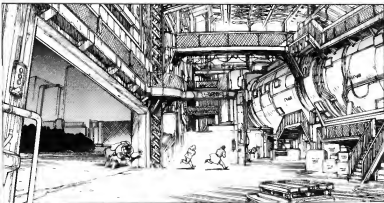
SHASS ORRA TAHRAA, PIG!



WHEN ME GET OUTTA PRISON, ME GONNA KILL YOU! JUST WAIT, PIG-MAN!





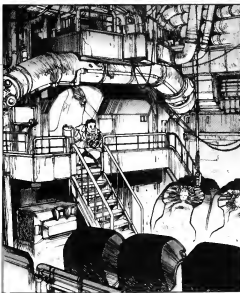




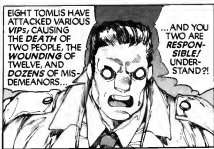
MAYBE THEY'RE THE "PRODUCT".

LINK! ADAM! STOP FIGHTING ME! THE BOSS IS WAITING IN THE INVESTIGATION ROOM, SO LET'S GET--









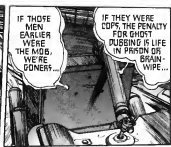




HEY, BOSS...
DON'T YOU THINK
YOU OUGHT TO
SLOW DOWN
A BIT?



IF THOSE
MEN
EARLIER
WERE
THE MOB,
WE'RE
GONERS...



IF THEY WERE
COPS, THE PENALTY
FOR GHOST
DUBBING IS LIFE
IN PRISON OR
BRAIN-WIPE...

IF YOU'RE SO
WORRIED, WHY'D
YOU BRING ALONG
FIVE ROBOTS?! THIS
IS ONLY A V-8--
IT'LL OVERHEAT!



IF THAT'S ALL
YOU'RE WORRIED
ABOUT, GET OUT!
I CAN REPLACE A
DOCTOR IN THREE
DAYS, BUT NOT
THESE
ROBOTS.

I NEED THEM
TO MAKE ENOUGH
MONEY SO I
CAN REACH A
SETTLEMENT WITH
THE MOB... OR
THE COPS,
IF I HAVE
TO...





THEY'RE
HEADING
FOR THE
PORT...



GHOST DUBBING'S
LIFE OR BRAINWIPE,
SO THEY'LL TRY
TO FLEE THE
COUNTRY...



SMUGGLING
KIDS, INVOLVE-
MENT WITH
DRUGS--HELL,
I'D HEAD FOR
THE HIGH SEAS,
TOO.



LET'S
GET THE
MARITIME
SAFETY
AGENCY
TO SEAL
OFF THE
PORT...



ONLY IF I
SUDDENLY
STOP
HEARING THE
WHINE OF
THEIR ENGINE
BEFORE WE
CATCH UP
TO 'EM...

I DON'T
WANNA
OWE THE
MSA
ANYTHING.



BOOOHHHHH
CHUGCHUG'CHUG



BOSS!
WHY'RE YOU
SLOWING
DOWN?

START
LOOKING
FOR IT,
DOCTOR!



GOT A
DATABASE HIT!
THE COMPANY
SHIP'S REGIS-
TERED AS
BERTHED AT
PIER 92!

HAH!
THOUGHT
SO!



CAN'T
HEAR
THE V-8
ANY-
MORE!

THEY'RE
LESS THAN A
KLICK AHEAD.
WE'LL CATCH
'EM!



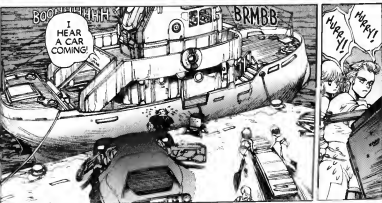
GIVEN THE
SPEED THEY'RE
DRIVING AT AND
THE WAY THE EN-
GINE IS LABORING,
I'D SAY THEY'VE
GOT SEVERAL
ROBOTS WITH
'EM.

PUT
ON YOUR
BUZZ-
KNUCKS!



I DON'T LIKE
THE SHOCK
THIS PAIR
GIVES OFF...

MAYBE
SWEET
MAYUMI IN
ORDNANCE
DON'T LIKE
YOU ANY-
MORE...



I
HEAR
A CAR
COMING!

Hurry!
Hurry!



B-BOSS!
MAKE THE
ROBOTS
ATTACK
THEM!

DON'T
BE AN
IDIOT!

YOU WANT
TO MAKE THE
SITUATION
EVEN WORSE?!!
BESIDES,
THEY'RE NOT
EVEN
COMBAT
MODELS...





WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE COAST GUARD, THE PRESIDENT OF HANKA PRECISION INSTRUMENTS WAS SALVAGED AND ARRESTED...



PRESIDENT OF HANKA PRECISION INSTRUMENTS ARRESTED!!

THE PRESIDENT IS COMPLETELY MECHANIZED EXCEPT FOR HIS SPINAL CORD AND BRAIN. AN INVESTIGATION WILL BE CONDUCTED TO DETERMINE WHETHER THIS CRIME WAS COMMITTED BY HIS GHOST, OR WHETHER IT WAS A MECHANICAL MALFUNCTION

WELL?



HE APPARENTLY COULDN'T KEEP UP WITH HIS COMPETITORS IN AI DEVELOPMENT...



...SO HE USED THE MOB TO SMUGGLE IN KIDS. HE "EDUCATED" THEM WITH DRUGS, AND TURNED THEM INTO NEAR-ROBOTS.

THEN HE DUBBED THEIR GHOSTS INTO HIS OWN COMPANY'S MACHINES AND GAVE THEM TO SPECIAL CUSTOMERS.



THE HANKA FACILITY WAS BUILT ON THE FORMER SITE OF THE OLD INTELLIGENCE DIVISION'S TRAINING CENTER... AND THE HEAD OF THE CENTER WHEN IT MOVED, COLONEL, WAS NONE OTHER THAN YOU...

COME ON, NOW... I WAS AN OFFICIAL MEMBER OF THE HANKA MONITORING COMMITTEE, SO PROTOTYPES WERE NATURALLY SENT TO ME FOR EVALUATION, BUT I DIDN'T KNOW HOW THEY WERE MANUFACTURED!

hah hah



AND I WAS ONE OF THOSE "SPECIAL CUSTOMERS"?





PERHAPS YOU CAN EXPLAIN HOW SUCH ENORMOUS SUMS OF MONEY WERE MANIPULATED-- MONEY OF UNCLEAR ORIGIN AND USE?

YOU WERE THE ONE WHO TAUGHT ME TO ALWAYS "CHECK THE WOMEN AND THE MONEY FIRST," COLONEL.

WHY... YOU...



YOU WERE MORE AFRAID OF TERRORISTS THAN YOU WERE ABOUT PEOPLE LEARNING OF YOUR CONNECTION WITH HANKA, WEREN'T YOU, COLONEL?

YOU MADE TOO MANY ENEMIES WHEN YOU WERE HEAD OF INTELLIGENCE...





07

PHANTOM
FUND

2012.2029





SO, WHEN YOU DON'T HAVE THE BRASS CATCHER ATTACHED, THE SHELLS ARE EJECTED FORWARD?

SEEMS TO ME IT'D TEND TO JAM...

MAGAZINE SAME AS THE TM-700.

HEY, YOU GOT ANY IDEA HOW MANY MONTHS WE SPENT TESTING THAT THING?!

LOOK AT THESE CALLOUSES, WILL YA?! I AIN'T KIDDING!

HEY, YOU HATE!



WELL, PUT A MATTE FINISH ON IT.

IF I GET THE CHANCE I'LL TRY IT OUT.

GEE! LOOKIT THAT!

Wow! Cool!

DON'T TOUCH! THIS TANK'S FOR SECTION ONE!



High heels

Wow!





Hwk?!
ONLY THE
BRAIN'S
BEEN ACTI-
VATED?

HMM... NO
BARRIER?!



I...
I MEAN
YOU...
AND I...

ME
AND
YOU...
WE?

?!
?



SNAP!



CHIEF'S
CALLING...
LET'S
GO!

WHA--!?

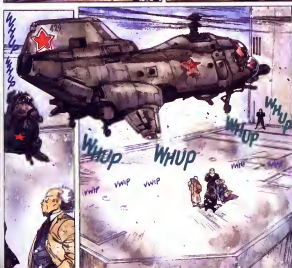


B-BUT
I WAS
ON THE
VERGE
OF A
PROFOUND
INSIGHT!

DAMN ... NO
CLEAR DATA
RECORD, BUT I
KNOW IT WAS
SOMETHING
TERRIBLY
PROFOUND!



YOU **DO**
REMEMBER
YOUR ROLE
AS MY
"SUIT," I
HOPE.





WELL, COMRADE ARAMAKI... SOME- DAY, WHEN MAGADAN IN SIBERIA'S A GREAT CITY LIKE YOUR FUKUOKA, I'LL INVITE YOU TO VISIT. YES?

UNFORTUNATELY, I'M NOT GOING TO LIVE AS LONG AS METHUSELAH DID...

OUR EXCHANGE DIDN'T BEAR MUCH FRUIT, BUT FOR BOTH OF US. AT LEAST, I THINK IT WAS WORTHWHILE



IN PARTING, I'M GOING TO GIVE YOU A LITTLE PRESENT.



IF YOU MEAN THE CLIPPINGS FROM THE SOYUZ EVENING EDITION, I'VE ALREADY GOT THOSE.



NO, I'M JUST LETTING YOU KNOW THAT MY SUCCESSOR, ASECHINOV, IS SOMEONE WHO WASN'T SELECTED BY THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

HE GOT HIS JOB THROUGH MONEY LAUNDERED BY GENERAL MARLOV, WHOM I BELIEVE YOU KNOW VERY WELL INDEED.



SINCERE THANKS FOR FINALLY TELLING ME SOMETHING I DIDN'T ALREADY KNOW.

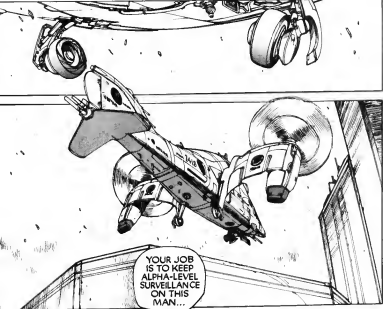


LIES, BUT YOU'RE WELCOME.



WE'RE FLYING NORTH!

ALL TEAM MEMBERS REPORT TO HELI-PORT!





SPAK SPAK SPAK SPANG



JESUS, YOU USELESS PUKES!! THIS AIN'T THE STINKING OLYMPICS!! WITH BIG TARGETS LIKE HUMANS, DON'T WORRY SO MUCH ABOUT PUTTING FIVE IN THE SAME HOLE--JUST BLAST AWAY AT THE CENTER OF MASS!

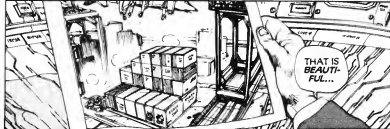
STEADY YER SHANKS! GO! GO!











THAT IS
BEAUTI-
FUL...



THANK
YOU,
SIR.

I'M NOT
TALKING TO YOU.
I'M TALKING
ABOUT THEIR
OPTICAL CAM-
OUFLAGE...

IT'S GOT TO BE
KYO-RE 2902 MODEL
OPTO-CAM... IT'S
TOO BAD OUR
SAGAWA OPTICS
HYPER-RES CAMERA
CAN'T HANDLE IT.
WE'VE GOT A REAL
PROBLEM ON OUR
HANDS, NOW....



IF THEY'RE
USING THE 2902,
SIR, THEY'RE
FROM SECTIONS
6 AND 9 OF THE
PUBLIC SECURITY
BUREAU OR
SECTION 4 OF
THE RANGERS.

ALL THOSE
GROUPS REPORT
DIRECTLY TO THE
PRIME MINISTER,
AND ARE THERE-
FORE IMMUNE TO
NORMAL PRES-
SURE TACTICS.



LISTEN--
THE ONLY
ONES IMMUNE
TO PRESSURE
ARE THE HEADS
OF THE UNIONS
MANIPULATING
PARLIAMENT...

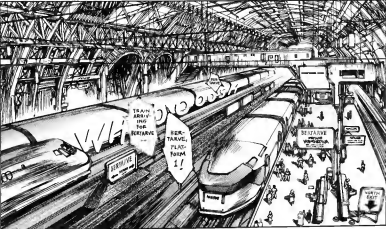
ALL
THIS STUFF
ABOUT
"REPORTING
DIRECTLY TO
THE PRIME
MINISTER" IS
JUST ON
PAPER.

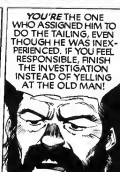


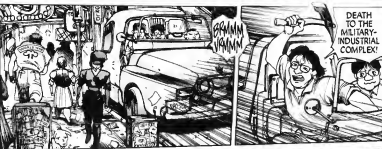
SO
GET
WITH
IT.

TIME'S
OUR
ENEMY.

YESSIR.













SO...IT'S SAGAWA ELECTRONICS YOU'RE INTERESTED IN, EH?

AH, THAT'S THE YAMATON CORPORATION I HATE MOST...



THEY WERE THE FIRST AND BIGGEST VULTURES TO SWOOP IN HERE WHEN THE SOVIETS RETURNED THE NORTH ISLANDS...

FRANKLY, MY FRIENDS AND I DON'T EVEN RECOGNIZE A "RETURN" THAT EXCLUDES ALL THOSE MILITARY BASES...



SURE, I KNOW THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT COALITION HAD INTRODUCED A FAILED TAX POLICY, THAT THERE WAS A PUBLIC REACTION TO IT, AND THAT THE OPPOSITION JUST HAPPENED TO NEED SOME SORT OF "EVENT" TO GAIN POWER...

tak takka tak

... I ALSO KNOW THE SOVIETS WANTED CLOSER LINKS TO JAPAN BECAUSE THEIR ENTRY INTO THE EC MARKET THROUGH THE GERMAN CONNECTION HADN'T PRODUCED THE HOPED-FOR ECONOMIC BENEFITS...



OH, YEAH, AND THE MOSLEMS HAD SLOWLY BEEN APPLYING PRESSURE ON THE SOVIETS FROM THE SOUTH...

OH, HERE WE GO! ACCESS!



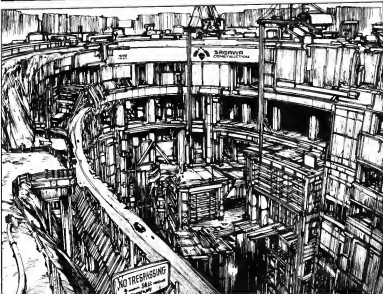
OKAY, GOT A DIRECT LINK TO THE HEAD OF SECURITY'S BRAIN AT SAGAWA ELECTRONICS HEADQUARTERS...

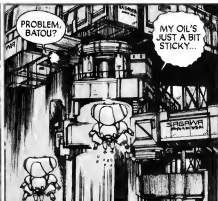
SO, YOU WANT A MAP OF THE SECURITY NET? AN ALL-AREAS PASS CARD?



KROLDEN, YOU SHOULD NEVER HAVE QUIT YOUR JOB AT THE CABINET PR OFFICE...

THAT A COMPLIMENT?







NOT AGAIN!
I BET YOU GUYS
DON'T HAVE
PERMISSION,
EITHER!

YOU
THE SITE
SUPER-
VISOR?!

WE'RE FROM
THE PUBLIC
SAFETY
BUREAU--
THERE'S A
RADIATION
LEAK HERE!

YOU GOTTA
STOP
WORK AND
EVACUATE
EVERY-
ONE!

IT'S
ALL A
LIE...

WH-
WH-
WH-
A?
T?!

YOU SAID
"EITHER"
EARLIER!
WHO ELSE
HAS COME
DOWN
HERE?!

ONE PAIR
LIKE YOU, A SIX-
MAN SUIT
SQUAD FROM
HQ, AND SOME
FOREIGNERS
WHO LOOKED
LIKE BUREAU-
CRATS. GOTTA
GO NOW!

A SUIT
SQUAD
FROM
HQ...?



















YOU
HIDN'T
HAVE TO
KILL HIM,
BATOU!!



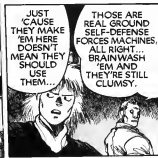
DEAD
MEN DON'T
TALK...OR
NAME NAMES
WE NEED...

I KNOW
THAT, YOU
STUPID
ASSHOLE!



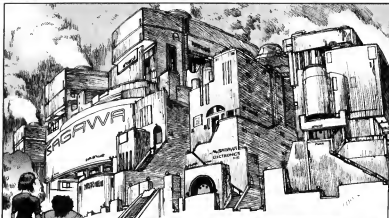
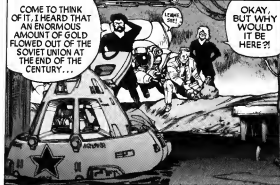
BOMA
GOT THE LAST
MACHINE.
LOOKS LIKE
THEY WERE
CONTROLLED
BY KOIL.

YEAH, BUT I
DON'T UNDER-
STAND WHAT
TYPE 24 GSDF
ARMORED SUITS
ARE DOING HERE
IN THE FIRST
PLACE...



JUST
'CAUSE
THEY MAKE
'EM HERE
DOESN'T
MEAN THEY
SHOULD
USE
THEM...

THOSE ARE
REAL GROUND
SELF-DEFENSE
FORCES MACHINES,
ALL RIGHT...
BRAINWASH
'EM AND
THEY'RE STILL
CLUMSY.





BE CAREFUL, MA'AM...



I WILL.



HEY I'M THE PHOTOGRAPHER FOR THE ANNUAL REPORT. I'VE GOT A PASS FOR THE SHOOT BUT I JUST CAME TODAY TO CHECK OUT THE LOCATION...

YOU CAN GO RIGHT ON INTO THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE...



SAY, CHIEF, HAVE WE GOT A PHOTOGRAPHER SCHEDULED FOR TODAY IN THE SECURITY LOG?

ARE YOU LOSING YOUR MARBLES? THAT'S THE DAUGHTER OF THE MAN FROM KAMIZAWA PHOTO STUDIO. HE'S BEEN COMING HERE FOR FORTY YEARS.



GEEZ, THEY'VE AUTOMATED THIS PLACE TO THE MAX. LOOK AT THAT BUM, THOUGH-- CAMPING HERE RIGHT UNDER THE EYES OF ALL THESE STUPID MACHINES...

THE BIG BOSS MUST BE A LITTLE BIT OF A NUT...



WONDER IF I SHOULD BREAK INTO THE INFORMATION PROCESSING CENTER, OR THE MEMORY MANAGEMENT CENTER....

HMM... I'D BETTER DIRECTLY INFILTRATE A COUPLE CHIEF EXEC'S BRAINS... IT'D BE FASTER...

WHA-?
?!

SECTION 4

STATION

ATTENTION, PERSON EXHIBITING SUSPICIOUS BEHAVIOR AT INTER-SECTION 9972.

PLEASE SHOW YOUR I.D. AND PASS!

WELL, I... ER...

DAMN!

SQUEEE!

BKAM
BKAM

UPPO

AND AFTER I WENT TO ALL THAT TROUBLE TO GET A FREE PASS... WHAT AN IDIOT I AM...

MAYBE I'D BETTER LEAVE THIS PART OUT OF MY REPORT...









"3/5/1998, SELL
B ZONE TO K,
(M)...5/7/1998,
SELL L ZONE
TO M, (K)..."

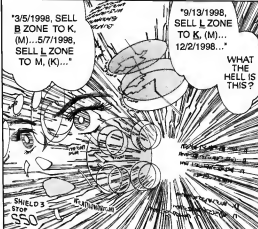
"9/13/1998,
SELL L ZONE
TO K, (M)...
12/2/1998..."

WHAT
THE
HELL IS
THIS?



GIVEN THE
AMOUNT OF
DATA,
THEY'VE USED
A PRETTY
SIMPLE EN-
CRYPTION...

CRUDE,
IN FACT.



SHIELD'S
STOP
SSO



THESE DISKS
ARE SECRET
REGISTERS OF
THE TRANS-
ACTIONS! HAH!
"NATIONAL
DEFENSE"...
WHAT A
JOKE!



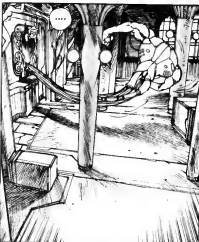
?!



BUT I'M
AFRAID I'M
GOING TO
HAVE TO
TAKE IT
APART FOR
FURTHER
STUDY, LT.
KUSANAGI!



JUST
YOU TRY...
LT. COLONEL
SOHEI
KAGASAKI,
SPECIAL OP
FOR THE FAR
NORTH...!







WE RECEIVED
A NOTICE FROM
THE FOREIGN
MINISTRY ABOUT
THAT INCIDENT
THE OTHER DAY,
ARAMAKI.



ASECHINOV,
THE CULTURAL
ATTACHE AT
THE SOVIET
EMBASSY, WAS
SUMMONED
HOME.



AS YOU
KNOW,
RECALLING
DIPLOMATS IS
SOMETHING
BOTH OF OUR
NATIONS
WISH TO
AVOID...



SO TELL
ME, WHY
WERE YOU
FOLKS
OPERATING
IN THE
FAR NORTH,
ANYWAY...?



BECAUSE
OF THE SINKING
GEOFRONT, SIR.
WHILE WE WERE
MOUNTING A
RESCUE MISSION,
WE ACCIDENTALLY
CAME ACROSS THE
GOLD INGOTS...



DID
YOU,
INDEED...



WELL, THE
SECRETARY OF
THE SOVIET UNION
MUST HAVE BEEN
QUITE SURPRISED
WHEN THOSE
GOLD BARS WERE
RETURNED TO
HIM...



OF COURSE IT WAS THEIR GOLD TO BEGIN WITH...

...AND THEY'LL PROBABLY USE IT TO CONSTRUCT NUCLEAR PROCESSING PLANTS AND UNDER-GROUND CITIES IN SIBERIA.



ARAMAKI, YOU'D MAKE AN APPALLING POLITICIAN...



DON'T WORRY, SIR. I'M A PUBLIC SECURITY MAN, THROUGH AND THROUGH. AND PROUD OF IT...

TAKE CARE!



OF COURSE THAT'S ALL KAGASAKI ORIGINALLY WAS, TOO... A PUBLIC SECURITY MAN.



BUT HE EMBEZZLED ENOUGH FUNDS AND TOOK ENOUGH BRIBES TO TURN SAGAWA INTO THE GIANT, OCTOPUS-LIKE SAGAWA CORPORATE GROUP?



AND HE PROBABLY KNEW MARLOV WAS TURNING THE FUNDS INTO GOLD BARS...



HE WAS IN CHARGE OF USING SAGAWA ELECTRONICS CORPORATION AS CAMOUFLAGE TO GET CLOSER TO THE SOVIET BASES...

I GUESS THE
CENTRAL COM-
MITTEE DIDN'T WANT
MARLOV TO GET
HOLD OF THAT
MONEY AND WIN IN
THE NEXT ELECTION.
HMM?

THEY MUST
HAVE SENSED
WHAT HE WAS UP
TO, AND THEN SET
US UP TO DO THE
DIRTY WORK FOR
THEM... TAKE CARE
OF THEIR LITTLE
PROBLEM.

BY THE
WAY... WHAT'S
THIS I HEAR
ABOUT YANO'S
FAMILY'S BANK
ACCOUNT BEING
FATTENED TO
THE TUNE OF
ONE GOLD
INGOT?

WELL...
UH... THINK
OF IT AS A
POSTHUMOUS
APOLOGY
FROM
KOIL...

WELL,
IN THAT
CASE,
OKAY.

JUST
DON'T
PUT IT IN
YOUR
REPORT.

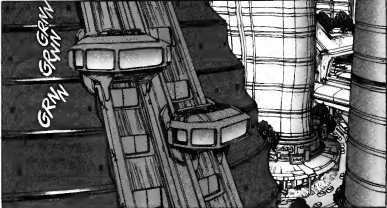
IT'S BEEN
TWENTY
MINUTES SINCE
BATOU WENT
TO MEET YANO'S
FAMILY. GO
GET HIM...

OKAY...

... BUT
I DON'T
KNOW
WHAT TO
SAY.

SAME
HERE.





WE'RE ONLY IN THIS FOR THE THRILLS, THE MONEY, AND THE BEST BODY MAINTENANCE POSSIBLE, SO THEY AT LEAST OUGHT TO PAY US BETTER...



IT'S YANO'S BROTHER...

DAMN... NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I GO THROUGH THIS, I'LL NEVER GET USED TO IT...



WAS THERE ANY OTHER CHOICE THIS TIME, THOUGH?

IT'S ONLY HUMAN TO THINK THERE MIGHT HAVE BEEN....



WHERE THE HELL HAVE YOU BEEN? YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO BE GUARDING ME!

CHECK OUT THIS OLD FELLER WE...UH...WE FOUND IN A GARBAGE DUMP!

YEP, THAT'S RIGHT, SONNY-- WHEN THE RUSSIAN SUPER-CRUISER **PIROSHKI** ENGAGED US THAT TIME, I FIGGERED I WAS A GONER FOR SURE...! BWA HA HA HA!

HEY, YOU'VE TOLD US THE SAME STORY 249 TIMES ALREADY, YA OLD FART!

WHE-- A PRESENT! CAN'T FORGIVE THIS PRETTY LADY!

